1941

File No. 0. Forest/41

Legal **DEPARTMENT**

A **BRANCH**

Subject:—

Opinions Under Indian Forests Act, 1927.

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Submitted.

2. The Bombay Natural History Society complained to Govt. about the deforestation of Salsette which adversely affects the scenic beauty of the Island. A report was called for by Govt. in thematter from the Chief Conservator of Forests which is at PP.63-65 ante. From that report it will be seen that there are three kinds of forest areas in the Island (1) Govt. Reserve forest (2) Municipal Forests and (3) Privately owned forests. The first two kinds of forests are under the control of Govt. The question is regarding the control of the third kind of forests viz. the Inam and Khoti forests. The area of these forests exceeds the area of Govt. and Municipal forests in Salsette. The reckless cutting of these forests at frequent intervals without enforcing any closing to grazing and their often being subjected to fire and in some areas to shifting cultivation is causing the unsightly denudation of the country side and consequent erosion with all its accompanying evils on the country side. The question under consideration is about these forests being taken under the management of Govt. under section 36 of the Indian Forest Act. The Chief Conservator of Forests in his endorsement at P.92 suggests action to be taken under section 36 but states that before doing so R.L.A, may be consulted. The papers are referred to the R.L.A. with regard to the proposed use of section 36 of the Indian Forest Act.

3. Preservation of the scenic beauty, flora or fauna of the place will not be one of the pu

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ond of the purposes for which Govt. can undertake protection of private forests under section 35 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Action under that section canhowever be taken for the preservation of the soil on the ridges and slopes and for protection of the land against erosion as suggested by the Chief Conservator of Forests in his endorsement at P. 92 ante. The postion stated by the Cheif conservator as regards contracts already entered into by the private owners of forests is correct.

Sd/-
4/7

A.S. I agree reply may be as in para 3 of Mrs. Potnis's note as ammended.

Sd/-
5/7

Sd/-
7/7

Sd/-
12/7

U.R. to R.D. No 6227 dated 17-7-1941

M.R.O
514/88